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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON, D.C.

AREA LABOR SUMMARY

THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

DATA FOR AUGUST 1988 NOVEMBER 1988

District Unemployment 4.9% in August

Lowest Rate For The Month In 17 Years

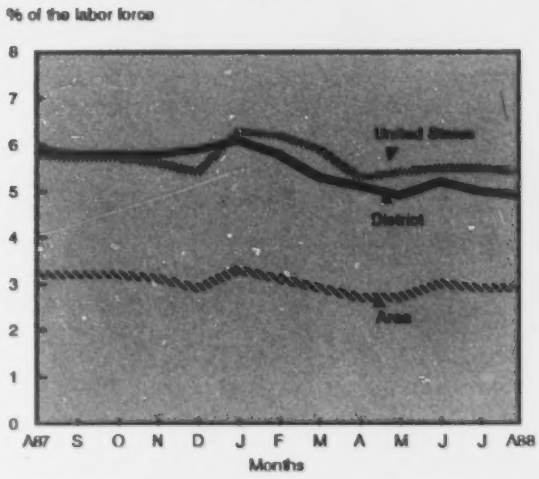
Labor Force

The District

For the second time this year, the District's monthly unemployment rate dropped below 5 percent—to 4.9 percent in August. For the first eight months of the year, the District's unemployment rate averaged 5.3 percent. Compared to the average for all of 1987 (6.3 percent), this indicates that the rate for the year could be significantly lower than last year's, thus, continuing five consecutive years of declining unemployment in the District.

During August, 2,800 District residents withdrew from the job market, probably representing the initiation of activities by students in anticipation of the start of a new school year. As a result of the decline in the labor force, the employment rolls also declined by 2,400 and the unemployment rolls by 400. Since both employment and unemployment contracted the unemployment rate slid down one tenth of a percentage point.

Unemployment Rates
August 1987 - August 1988



This mirrors the seasonal pattern that has traditionally occurred between July and August for the past 17 years. Over that period, the monthly movement in the unemployment rate has averaged a decline of two tenths of a percent. **As has been the case for all of this year, the unemployment rate of 4.9 percent was the**

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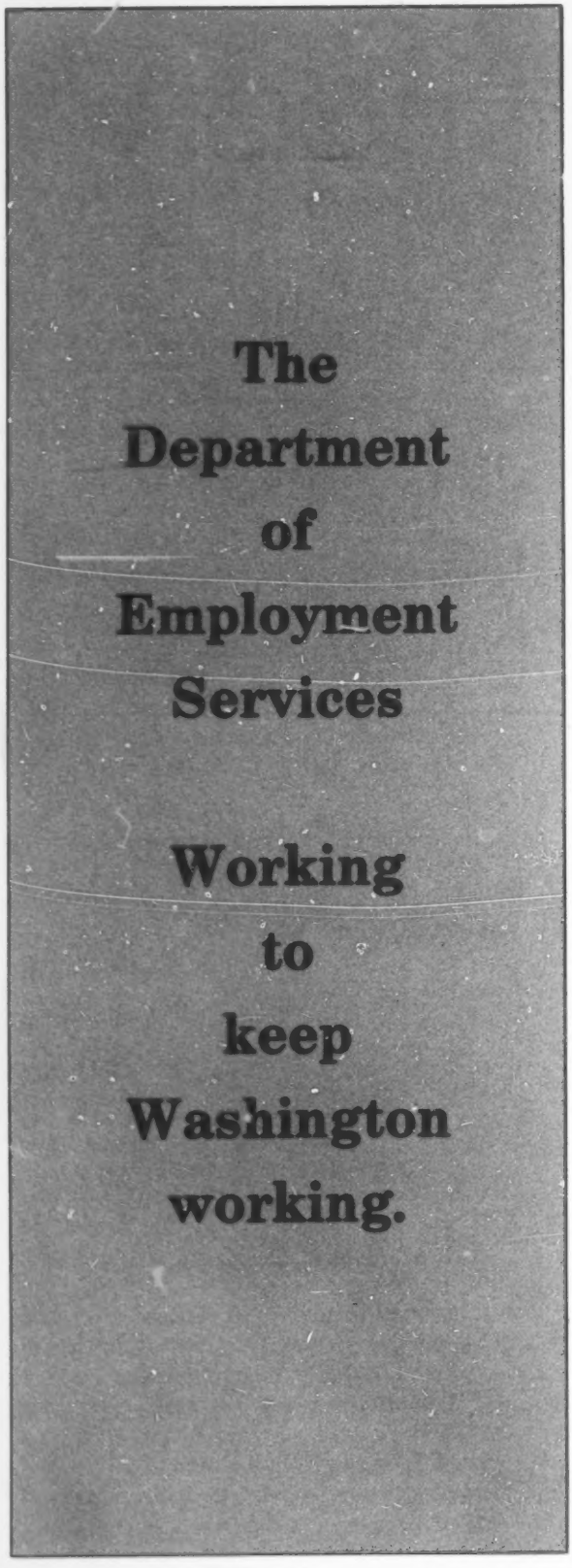
Government of the District of Columbia
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor

Department of Employment Services
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Director



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DATA FOR AUGUST 1988 NOVEMBER 1988

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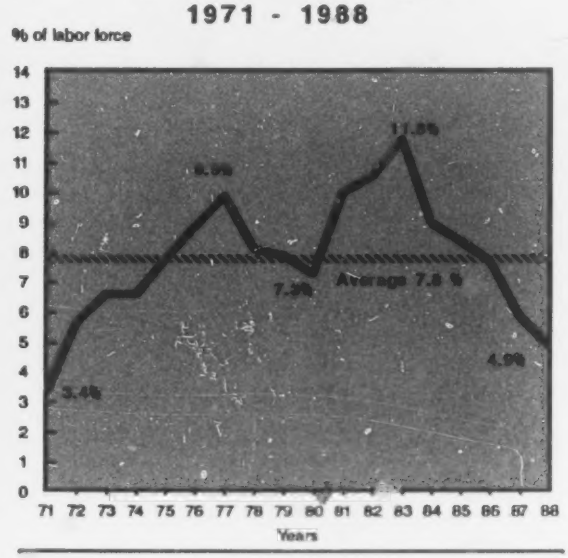
The *Area Labor Summary* is published monthly by the D.C. Department of Employment Services, 500 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. The Labor Market Information and Research Staff (Richard Groner, Chief) prepares the *Summary*. The following staff members have contributed to the publication and development of data herein: Charles Roeslin, Rufus Daniels, Eileen Dent, Nancy Anderson-Grant, Elsie Taylor, and Gwendolyn Thompson; and administrative support was provided by Robin McDonald.

Inquiries and requests for labor market information may be obtained by writing to the above address, or by calling: (202) 639-1641 or 639-1642.

Continued from page 1

lowest rate for the month in the past 17 years—since the 3.4 percent recorded in 1971. Most importantly, more District residents were employed (337,500) this past August than at any-

District Unemployment Rates in the Month of August
1971 - 1988



time since the 355,800 employed in August 1971. Measured from the record high unemployment for August set in 1987 (39,300), this year's 17,600 unemployed people represent a five-year decline of 55.2 percent in the level of unemployment in the City. This can be regarded as a significant measure of the strength of the local economy following the recovery from the 1980 recessions coupled with the 20,300 federal job cutback experienced between 1980 and 1983.

For Civilian workers across the nation, the unadjusted unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in August. Thus, unemployment in the District continued below the nation for the eighth consecutive month.

The Area & Suburbs

Labor market activity in the suburbs mirrored the District in August as both the size of the labor force and the number of employed residents declined. Unlike in the District, however, the decline in the labor force (3,800) was smaller than the decline in employment (4,200). As a result, the number of unemployed suburbanites increased marginally by 400. Because statistically the movement in the labor force and employment were basically offsetting, the unemployment rate remained unchanged at 2.5 percent. With only one unemployed person for every 40 people in the labor force, the suburban labor market remains extremely tight.

Compared to the same time last year (August 1987), there are 100,000 more suburban residents with jobs. Thus, the regional economy

Continued on page 4

Unemployment Rates in the Washington, D.C., MSA by City and County

	Aug. a/ 1988	July b/ 1988	Aug. 1987
District of Columbia	4.9	5.0	5.9
Calvert County	4.5	4.8	3.9
Prince Georges County	3.7	3.8	3.5
Charles County	3.5	3.7	3.0
Frederick County	3.3	3.2	3.6
Montgomery County	2.7	2.7	2.4
Alexandria City	2.1	1.9	2.6
Prince William County	1.9	1.8	2.0
Stafford County	1.8	1.8	2.5
Arlington County	1.7	1.6	1.9
Fairfax County	1.6	1.6	1.9
Manassas Park City	1.6	1.5	1.6
Fairfax City	1.6	1.5	1.7
Manassas City	1.6	1.4	1.8
Loudoun County	1.5	1.5	1.8
Falls Church City	1.3	1.4	1.8

a/ Preliminary.
b/ Revised.

SOURCE: The Department of Employment Services, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the Virginia Employment Commission.

Continued from page 3

Employment Status for the Civilian Population
District of Columbia, Suburban Ring, and the Washington, D.C. MSA
August 1988[a/]

	Aug.[b/] 1988	July[c/] 1988	Aug.[d/] 1987	July[d/] 1987	Net Change From July[c/] 1988	Net Change From Aug.[c/] 1987
Washington, D.C.						
Civilian Labor Force	355,100	357,900	348,800	350,700	-2,800	6,300
Total Employed	337,500	339,900	328,200	329,900	-2,400	9,300
Total Unemployed	17,600	18,000	20,500	20,800	-400	-2,900
Unemployment Rate[e/]	4.9	5.0	5.9	5.9	-0.1	-1.0
Suburban Ring						
Civilian Labor Force	1,900,300	1,904,100	1,797,500	1,806,200	-3,800	102,800
Total Employed	1,852,300	1,856,500	1,752,300	1,757,400	-4,200	100,000
Total Unemployed	48,000	47,600	45,200	48,800	400	2,800
Unemployment Rate[e/]	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.7	- ——	——
Washington, D.C. MSA						
Civilian Labor Force	2,255,400	2,262,000	2,146,300	2,156,900	-6,600	109,100
Total Employed	2,189,800	2,196,400	2,080,500	2,087,300	-6,600	109,300
Total Unemployed	65,600	65,600	65,700	69,600	——	— 100
Unemployment Rate[e/]	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.2	——	-0.2

a Detail may not add to the totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.
d. Data reflects Benchmark Revisions. e. Seasonally unadjusted.

Estimated Labor Force and Employment for the Washington Metropolitan Area includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park; the Virginia Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Prince William, Loudoun, and Stafford; and the Maryland Counties of Montgomery, Prince Georges, Charles, Frederick, and Calvert.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

has been able to successfully absorb and employ 97 percent of all the new workers added to its labor force over the past year. Unlike in the District, however, where the number of unemployed declined by 2,900, the number of unemployed in the suburbs actually increased by 2,800. Because the increase in employment was so much larger, the suburban unemployment rate actually remained unchanged over the year.

At the Metropolitan Area level, the interaction in the District and its suburbs in August produced an unusual direct offset between employment and the size of the labor force—both declined by 6,600 so the level of August unemployment remained exactly the same at 65,600.

Over the year, (August 1987 to August 1988), a similar profile appeared. During the year, 109,100 people joined the labor force and 109,300 found work. Thus, only a tiny decline of 100 people occurred in the Area's unemployment. **As noted early, all of the decrease in Area unemployment occurred in the District.**

Labor Force Distribution
Washington Metropolitan Area
August 1988 & August 1987
(percent)

	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment
		August 1988	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	15.7	15.4	26.8
Suburbs	84.3	84.6	73.2
		August 1988	
Area	100.0	100.0	100.0
District	16.3	15.0	31.2
Suburbs	83.7	85.0	68.8

Characteristics of the Insured Unemployed

The number of individuals receiving unemployment insurance (UI) benefits totaled 8,290 in August 1988—down 1,163 claimants from July. In August, 51 percent of all UI recipients were males. Occupationally, clerical and sales comprised 27 percent of the total claimants. Professional, technical and managerial workers accounted for 25 percent, and service workers ranked third registering 23 percent.

The median duration of the current spell of insured unemployment was 10.0 weeks for all claimants—up from 9.2 weeks in July. Over the month, the duration for males increased from 9.7 weeks to 10.1 weeks, while that for females also increased from 8.9 weeks to 9.9 weeks. In August 1987, the average duration for males was 10.2 weeks and 9.7 weeks for females.

Job Growth

The District

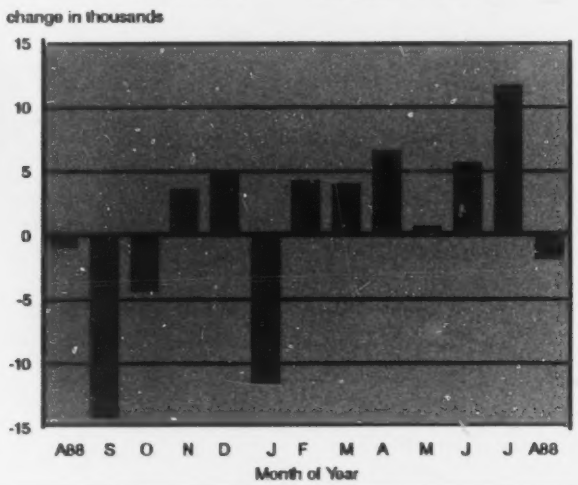
The number of jobs in the District decreased by 1,600 for a seasonal decline of 0.2 percent between July and August. The private sector accounted for half of the decrease with seasonally induced declines in Retail Trade (400 jobs) and Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (200 jobs).

In the public sector, losses occurred in both Federal Government (600 jobs) and State and Local Government (300 jobs).

Over the year (August 1987 to August 1988), the number of District jobs increased 1.4 percent for a gain of 9,600 jobs. The private sector gained 14,300 jobs for a growth rate of 1.4 percent. The leading growth contributor, Services, produced 12,400 jobs and accounted for 87 percent of new private sector jobs. The major components of Services growth were Business Services (4,200 jobs), All Other Services (2,800 jobs) and Legal Services (2,200 jobs). Significant Services growth also occurred in Membership Organizations (1,200 jobs), Health Services (1,100 jobs) and Hotels (900 jobs). Retail Trade was primarily responsible for the remainder of private sector growth with the creation of 1,400 jobs.

The public sector declined 1.6 percent over the year with losses in both Federal Government (2,900 jobs) and State and Local Government (1,800 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The District
August 1987 - August 1988



The Suburbs

The number of suburban jobs declined by 0.3 percent for a loss of 4,400 jobs between July and August. The public sector was responsible for the decline with a seasonal loss in State and Local Government (4,200 jobs) and a reduction in Federal Government (500 jobs). The Virginia suburbs accounted for the loss in State and Local Government as well as 80 percent of the Federal reduction. The private sector grew by 400 jobs as a result of strong Construction growth concentrated in the Virginia suburbs.

Over the year, (August 1987 to August 1988), suburban jobs grew at a rate of 3.6 percent for a

Continued on page 6

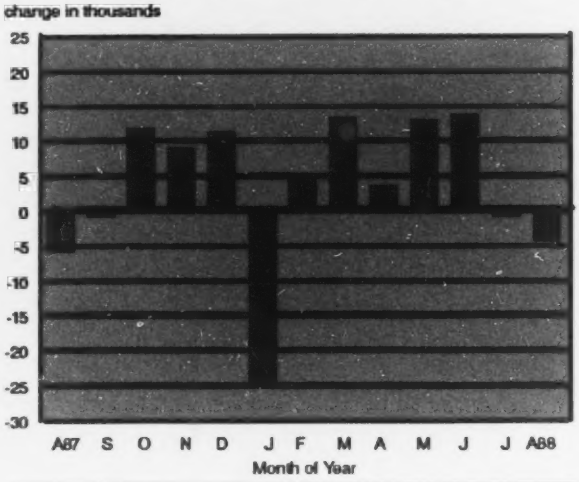
Continued from page 5

Suburbs

gain of 51,900 jobs. **The Virginia suburbs grew at a rate of 5.9 percent accounting for 81 percent of suburban growth while the Maryland suburbs increased at a modest rate of 1.4 percent.**

The private sector accounted for 94 percent of new suburban jobs with the primary contributors, Services (20,100 jobs) and Trade (13,900 jobs), accounting for two-thirds of suburban growth. Ninety-two percent of the Services growth and 70 percent of the Trade growth occurred in the Virginia suburbs. The Virginia suburbs also accounted for 97 percent of the growth in Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (5,300 jobs), Construction (3,900 jobs) and Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (3,700 jobs).

Monthly Job Growth
The Suburbs
August 1987 - August 1988



In the public sector, growth in State and Local Government (5,800 jobs) was partially offset by a reduction in Federal Government (2,500 jobs) for a growth rate of 1.2 percent over the year.

The Area

The Washington Metropolitan Area lost 6,000 jobs between July and August for a decline of 0.3 percent. The public sector was responsible for 93 percent of the loss with seasonally induced declines in State and Local Government (5,600 jobs) and Federal Government (1,100 jobs) while the private sector registered a slight decline of 400 jobs.

Over the year, (August 1987 to August 1988), the Area grew at a rate of 2.9 percent, creating 61,500 jobs. The private sector grew at a rate of 4.1 percent, gaining 62,900 jobs and providing all the new jobs created in the Area. The leading job contributors, Services (32,500 jobs) and Trade (15,300 jobs), accounted for 78 percent of Area growth and 76 percent of private sector job creation. Significant private sector growth also occurred in Transportation, Communications, and Public Utilities (5,700 jobs), Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (4,000 jobs) and Construction (3,500 jobs).

The public sector declined 0.2 percent as a reduction in Federal Government (5,400 jobs) was partially offset by growth in State and Local Government (4,000 jobs). The transfer of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital to the District last October is primarily responsible for the Federal loss as well as the gain in State and Local Government.

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Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work[a]
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia			Metropolitan Area		
	Aug. [b] 1988	July [c] 1988	Aug. [c] 1987	Aug. [b] 1988	July [c] 1988	Aug. [c] 1987
TOTAL	**684.1**	**685.7**	**674.5**	**2,164.0**	**2,170.0**	**2,102.5**
Total Private Sector	**400.9**	**401.7**	**386.6**	**1,598.9**	**1,599.3**	**1,536.0**
Total Government	**283.2**	**284.0**	**287.9**	**565.1**	**570.7**	**566.5**
Manufacturing	**16.5**	**16.6**	**16.3**	**88.0**	**88.5**	**86.2**
Total Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	41.9	42.1	40.7
Stone, Clay, Glass, and Concrete Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	3.5	3.5	3.2
Electrical & Electronic Machinery, Equip., & Supp.	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.1	21.3	21.7
All Other Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	17.3	17.3	15.8
Total Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.1	46.4	45.4
Food & Kindred Products	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.6	5.7	5.8
Printing & Publishing	12.9	13.0	12.5	33.8	33.9	32.7
All Other Non-Durables	N/A	N/A	N/A	6.7	6.8	6.9
All Other Manufacturing	3.6	3.7	3.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mining	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**1.2**	**1.2**	**1.3**
Construction	**15.5**	**15.5**	**15.9**	**140.2**	**139.4**	**136.7**
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	**25.0**	**25.2**	**24.6**	**108.0**	**108.0**	**102.3**
Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.0	5.0	5.0
Transportation ex. Railroad	N/A	N/A	N/A	50.4	50.3	45.0
All Transportation	9.9	10.1	9.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Communication & Public Utilities	15.1	15.1	15.2	52.5	52.6	52.3
Trade	**64.0**	**64.4**	**62.6**	**428.9**	**429.1**	**413.6**
Wholesale	8.8	8.8	8.8	75.2	75.4	74.8
Retail	55.2	55.6	53.8	353.7	353.6	338.8
General Merchandise	4.3	4.2	4.1	36.0	35.9	36.2
Food	N/A	N/A	N/A	46.5	46.0	45.0
Automotive	N/A	N/A	N/A	39.5	39.4	38.2
Apparel & Accessories	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.0	27.1	26.2
Eating & Drinking Places	27.3	27.7	26.6	119.7	120.2	111.4
All Other Retail	23.6	23.6	23.1	85.0	84.9	81.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	**37.8**	**38.0**	**37.5**	**131.1**	**131.7**	**127.1**
Banking	7.2	7.2	7.1	23.4	23.6	22.2
All Other	30.6	30.7	30.4	107.6	108.1	104.9
Services	**242.0**	**242.0**	**229.6**	**701.4**	**701.5**	**668.9**
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	14.9	15.9	14.0	34.3	35.1	33.4
Personal Services	4.0	4.0	4.0	23.6	23.7	23.5
Business Services	55.1	54.2	50.9	N/A	N/A	N/A
Computer & Data Process	4.1	4.0	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
Health Services	34.6	34.3	33.5	N/A	N/A	N/A

Continued on page 8

Wage and Salary Employment by Industry and Place of Work
(in thousands)

INDUSTRY	District of Columbia Aug. b/ 1988	District of Columbia July c/ 1988	District of Columbia Aug. c/ 1987	Metropolitan Area Aug. b/ 1988	Metropolitan Area July c/ 1988	Metropolitan Area Aug. c/ 1987
Legal Services	27.3	27.5	25.1	N/A	N/A	N/A
Membership Organizations	32.0	32.2	30.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
All Other Services	74.1	73.9	71.3	643.5	642.8	612.0
Government	**283.2**	**284.0**	**287.9**	**565.1**	**570.7**	**566.5**
Federal Government	216.7	217.3	219.6	357.9	359.0	363.3
State & Local Government	N/A	N/A	N/A	207.2	211.7	203.2
State & Local Gov. Except Public Transportation	61.6	61.9	63.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Public Transportaion	4.9	4.9	4.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

a. Detail may not add to totals due to independent rounding. b. Preliminary. c. Revised.

Data includes all full- and part-time employees who worked during or received pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employed, unpaid family workers, and private household workers are excluded.

Source: Prepared by the Department of Employment Services, Labor Market Information and Research Staff in cooperation with the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development, and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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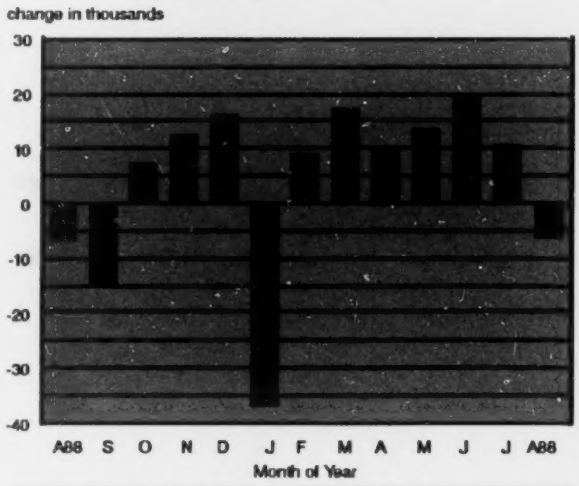
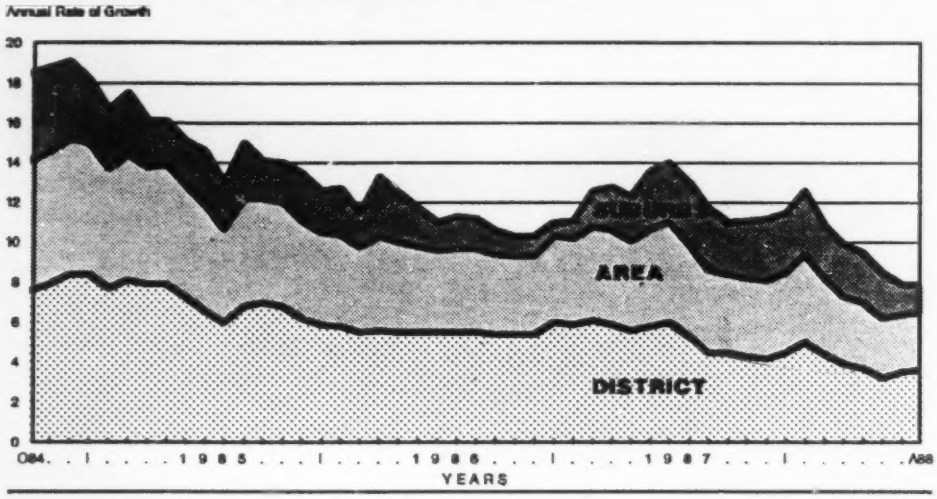
Monthly Job Growth
The Area
August 1987 - August 1988



Monthly Over-The-Year Rate of Job Growth
October 1984 - August 1988



Area Job Growth Rates

Over the past 46 months, (October 1984 to August 1988), the Washington Area has created new jobs at a rate of 4.7 percent. Measured by monthly over-the-year changes, however, the rate of growth has been steadily declining after peaking at 6.8 percent in December 1984. Between August 1987 and August 1988, the Area's job growth slowed to 2.9 percent.

The Suburban portion of the Area is still the generator of most new jobs, having grown over the past year at a rate of 3.6 percent, but at a much slower pace than its 46-month-longterm average of 5.8 percent. Over the past year, the District proper has added new jobs at a rate of 1.4 percent, and like the suburbs, below its 46-month average of 2.4 percent.

In absolute terms, job creation in the Area has declined from 86,900 new jobs produced between August 1984 and August 1985, to 61,500 between August 1987 and August 1988. Over the past year, 51,900 new jobs were added to the Suburban economy and 9,600 in the District. **The Washington Area is now creating new jobs at a slower pace than the U.S. economy (2.9 percent versus 3.7 percent for the Nation).**

Profile of Job Growth Rates
October 1984 to August 1988

The Area	
Average 46 months	4.7%
High, December 1984	6.8%
Low, July 1988	2.9%
Current month	2.9%
The Suburbs	
Average 46 months	5.8%
High, January 1985	8.4%
Low, June 1988	3.2%
Current month	3.6%
The District	
Average 46 months	2.4%
High, October 1984	4.4%
Low, January 1987	0.7%
Current month	1.4%

PAY PROFILE:

D.C. Number One In Average Annual Pay In 1987

The District of Columbia surpassed Alaska in average annual pay in 1987 and ranked number one in the nation for the first time in the history of the ranking. The average D.C. pay was $28,477 according to statistics recently released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Alaska ranked number one for several years prior to 1987, and is currently ranked second with $28,008. Alaska is followed by New York ($24,634), Connecticut ($24,322), and New Jersey ($23,842). South Dakota had the lowest annual pay ($14,963). Immediately above were Mississippi ($15,938) and North Dakota ($16,157). Of our neighboring states, Maryland was ranked tenth with $21,324, and Virginia at $19,963 was eighteenth. The national average was $20,855.

The shift in the top two positions resulted from the combination of continual increases in pay in the District and declines in Alaska from 1984 through 1987 due to the decrease in the effects of the oil industry boom. The increase in the District was due principally to marked gains in the private sector (6.4 percent), fueled by a 6.6 percent increase in Services, the largest industry division. In addition to the Services division, Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate (FIRE) increased 8.0 percent; Transportation, Communications and Public Utilities (7.8 percent); and Construction (6.3 percent) also increased and contributed to the private sector overall growth. In contrast, annual pay increased the least in wholesale trade (2.9 percent), but the movement was nonetheless positive. The public sector increased by 3.6 percent.

The District was ranked 16th in the nation in the percent of growth from 1986 to 1987 (4.9 percent) and was outranked by both Maryland (8th at 6.0 percent) and Virginia (13th at 5.2 percent). All three jurisdictions were above the 4.5 percent national average growth. Connecticut led the nation with 8.0 percent.

Annual pay data are compiled from reports submitted by employers for workers covered under the Unemployment Insurance Laws. The data from these reports are divided into two major sectors according to the legal proprietor-

Average Annual Pay and Percent Change For All Covered Workers [1/]

District of Columbia
1986 & 1987

Sector/Industry	Average Annual Pay 1986	Average Annual Pay 1987 [2/]	Percent Change, 1986-87 [3/]
All Covered Workers	$27,137	$28,477	4.9
Private Sector [4/]	24,300	25,857	6.4
Mining	56,757	59,933	5.6
Construction	23,211	24,679	6.3
Manufacturing	32,751	34,212	4.5
Transportation, Communications & Public Utilities	34,468	37,150	7.8
Wholesale Trade	31,366	32,262	2.9
Retail Trade	12,420	12,898	3.9
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	28,342	30,604	8.0
Services	24,896	26,545	6.6
Public Sector (Gov.)	31,011	32,118	3.6

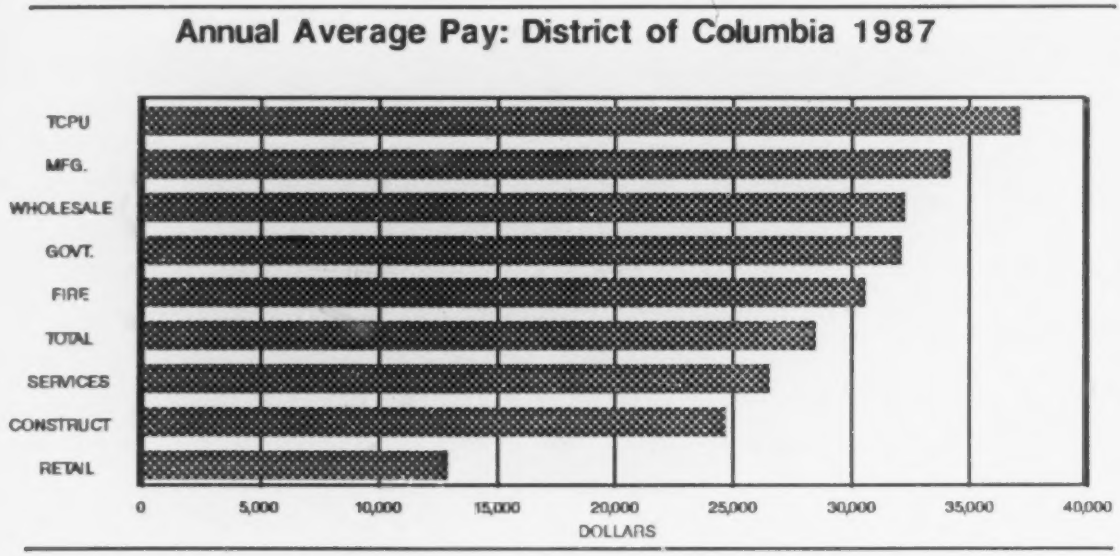
1/ Includes workers covered by Unemployment Insurance (UI) and Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) programs.

2/ Data are preliminary.

3/ Percent changes were computed from unrounded average annual pay data and may differ from data rounded to the nearest dollar.

4/ Includes data for industries in addition to those shown separately.

SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 24, 1988.



ship of the establishments: (1) Private (corporations, sole proprietorships, corporate or mutual associations, and partnerships), and (2) Public (federal, state, local and international governments). The wage levels in the District's private sector have historically been lower than public wages. In 1982, the differential in annual pay was $7,300. Between 1982 and 1987, however, the increase in private wages has averaged 6.8 percent per year compared to an annual 4.2 percent for public employees. As a result, the differential has been reduced by $1,000 to $6,300 in 1987. Strong gains in three major divisions mentioned earlier (led by Finance, Insurance and Real Estate, which rose nearly 12 percent per year in this period) contributed significantly to the decrease in the gap. Services and Utilities rose by 7.1 and 6.4 percents, respectively.

In contrast, the level of employment in the private sector has historically been higher than in the public sector. By virtue of an annual 3.3 percent growth in private sector employment in the District between 1982 and 1987 (compared to less than one percent per year for the public sector), the proportion of employment in the private sector has risen from 55.3 percent to 58.1 percent. Conversely, public employment has fallen from 44.7 percent to 41.9 in that time period.

Average annual pay is computed by dividing total annual payrolls by average monthly employment for these workers.

Unemployment Rates

Metropolitan Areas

In July 1988, the Bureau of Labor Statistics ranked 250 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) by preliminary unemployment rates. Historically, the Washington Area's jobless rate rises slightly between June and July. This July

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the rate held steady at 2.9 percent. The Washington Area's rate has been showing marked improvements since the first of the year when it declined by 0.2 percentage point for three consecutive months. In June, as in July, the rate was unchanged. The rate at 2.9 percent was the eighteenth lowest rate of all 250 areas reporting. A year ago, the rate was 3.2 percent.

Comparing the Washington Area with other large metropolitan areas nationwide, the Washington Area's rate at 2.9 percent was the lowest of all the metropolitan areas. For the second consecutive month and the third time this year, the Washington Area rate has been lower than that of its closest rival, the Boston Area. The Boston rate was 3.1 percent in July. A year ago, it was 2.2 percent. The Richmond-Petersburg Area, 110 miles to the south of Washington recorded a July rate of 3.2 percent down from 3.3 percent posted in June. This is only a fraction higher than the Washington Area's rate. The Baltimore Area, only 35 miles north of Washington, posted a 4.5 percent jobless rate in July, down 0.5 percentage point from June. A year ago, Baltimore's rate also was 4.5 percent.

States

When the District of Columbia (with a July preliminary unemployment rate of 5.1 percent) was ranked with the 50 States, the District had the twenty-fourth lowest jobless rate in the country. This was one notch below the June standing. Maryland's rate declined from 4.4 percent in June to 4.2 percent in July. Virginia's rate dropped from 3.8 percent to 3.7 percent. Maryland and Virginia ranked thirty-fourth and forty-first, respectively, in the standing of the 51 jurisdictions. A year ago, Maryland's and Virginia's rates were 4.2 percent and 4.1 percent, respectively.

Of the states reporting over-the-year declines in unemployment rates for June, over half reported decreases of 1 percentage point or more. The largest drops were in Wyoming (2.9 percentage points), Mississippi (2.8 points), Alaska (2.3 points), and Louisiana (2.1 points).

Fifteen states had June unemployment rates below 4 percent, including all of the New England states. New Hampshire continued to have the nation's lowest unemployment rate—2.0 percent. Louisiana, at 10.5 percent, was the only state to have a rate in double digits. Three other states—New Mexico, Texas, and West Virginia had rates above 8 percent.

Cities

In comparison with the 25 selected central cities, the District of Columbia (with a July preliminary rate of 5.1 percent) was tied with San Francisco for the fifth lowest jobless rate. This was down two notches from the June standing. In July, the average unemployment rate of all 26 cities was 7.8 percent up from 6.9 percent in June. There were nine cities including the District of Columbia with rates below 6 percent. Baltimore's rate at 6.9 percent was down from the 7.6 percent reported in June. In July 1987, the Baltimore rate was 6.8 percent.

Detroit was the only city reporting a double digit unemployment rate at 12.7 percent. The next highest rates were 9.6 percent posted in Gary and 9.5 percent recorded in New Orleans. Since February, Boston, New York, and San Francisco had reported the lowest jobless rates of the selected cities. In July, the lowest jobless rates were in Boston (3.9 percent), Columbus (4.3 percent), Salt Lake City (4.8 percent) and New York (4.9 percent). Of the 26 selected central cities, twenty-one reported over-the-year declines, with the largest being posted by Gary (4.7 percent) and Houston (3.2 percent). Boston reported a 1.4 percentage points over-the-year increase in joblessness.